

REMARKS

The present invention relates to an interlayer film for a laminated glass.

In the Office Action dated April 4, 2008, claims 1 - 10 and 12 - 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or alternatively under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent 6,673,456 (Kobata et al), which we note is assigned to Sekisui Chemical on its face. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on U.S. Patent 5,830,568 (Kondo), which was cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 31, 2006.

In the response, Applicant has amended claim 5 to independent form, while canceling claims 1 - 4 and 11 (thereby rendering the rejection based on Kondo moot). Claims 6, 9, and 12 are amended to depend on appropriate claims in view of the canceled claims. Amended claim 5 is supported by the disclosure in the specification, e.g., at page 7, paragraph [0017].

In the discussion below, Applicant explains the patentability of the present claimed invention *vis-à-vis* the cited art and the rejections set forth in the Office Action.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by or 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over Kobata et al

The Office Action indicated that Kobata et al disclose an interlayer comprising polyvinyl butyral resin, plasticizer, phosphate ester compound, acethylacetone and ITO particles, and the glass laminate with the interlayer (Example 1). The Office Action also indicated that Kobata et

al disclose 2-ethyl hexanoic acid (column 11, lines 36-44) and surfactant such as sodium laurel sulfate (column 11, lines 55-57). The Examiner recognized that Kobata et al did not disclose the solubility parameter and the relative permittivity of surfactant. However, based on Table 11 of Kubota et al, the claimed solubility parameter and claimed relative permittivity were assumed to be inherent properties of the surfactant used by Kobata et al.

The interlayer of Example 1 of Kobata et al uses polyphosphoric acid ester salt as a dispersant. However, it is not a moisture resistance improver. Polyphosphoric acid ester salt is not included in a moisture resistance improver as recited in present claim 5.

Table 11 of Kobata et al shows that no exfoliation after the humidity resistance test Examples 54-58. However, no surfactants are used in Examples 54-58. Exfoliation was observed in Kobata et al only after standing for 2 weeks under an environment of 80°C and a relative humidity 95%. On the other hand, a distance of a portion whitened (distance of whitening) after standing for 500 hours under the environment of 80°C and a relative humidity 95% was measured in present invention (see page 28, paragraph [0065] of the present application). These are quite different, with the evaluation of the present application being more severe than that of Kobata et al.

The present invention relates to an interlayer film for a laminated glass which does not cause an increase in a haze value due to moisture absorption and which has excellent moisture resistance. When a moisture resistance improver as recited in present claim 5 was used, the

severe moisture resistance test of laminated glass was cleared. Kobata et al contains no disclosure to use a moisture resistance improver.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 5 - 10 and 12 - 20 of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby earnestly solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

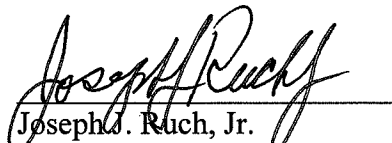
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